

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When FOUPs (front opening unified pods) (80a, 80b) are mounted on shelves (111d, 121c), respectively, shelves (121a, 121b, 121c) are moved in the vertical direction 5 by cylinders (127a, 127b, 127c), respectively. The FOUP (80b) is thereby moved above the FOUP (80a) to create a space (129), for ensuring a transport path (AR6) for the FOUP (80a). The FOUP 80a can therefore be transported to a shelf (141) without moving the FOUP (80b) to another shelf, achieving improved throughput of substrate processing.